

time. Because of their academic preparation, they will occupy positions of great importance in our society. But don't overlook the important fact that reducing the annual loss of life and destruction of property in fire requires the best effort of everyone. Yours is a particularly significant role.

So, in closing my second visit to FDIC, which I enjoyed very much, may I leave with you an inspirational quotation from the good book. "Take the gifts that God has given and you shall stand with great men." The cause of reducing fire losses requires more enthusiasts like yourselves who rise in stature to stand with great men.

ADDRESS, MARYLAND STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION

OCEAN CITY

June 17, 1964

Mr. President, Reverend clergy, distinguished guests and ladies and gentlemen:

It is a pleasure, as always, to be here today and to have this opportunity to spend a few relaxing moments with my many friends of the Maryland State Firemen's Association and the Association's Ladies Auxiliary. As most of you know, I have been attending the annual conventions of the Maryland State Firemen's Association for many years and every year I look forward to the next convention with anticipation. I do so because my association with firemen and their wives and families has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. As a member and as past president of this association, I recall fondly the many good times I enjoyed with fellow members and friends. In addition to your proven ability to put aside the immediate cares of the world and have a good time here in Ocean City for a few days, you have also demonstrated beyond question your capability in protecting your respective communities from the ravages of fire and disaster. For your contributions in this endeavor, I thank you not only as Governor of this State but also as a husband, father and grandfather.

Earlier this year, in March, I had the privilege of traveling to Memphis, Tennessee to address the annual Fire Department Instructors Conference held in that city. I think the very fact that I was invited is, in a sense, a tribute to our success in developing